4 November 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

This is week 31 in Ordinary Time

On Sunday, All Saints Day, we celebrated the holy men and women in heaven who pray for us as we grow closer to Christ. On Monday, All Souls' Day, we pray for those who have died, especially our loved ones, entrusting them to God's love and mercy.

Prayer for All Souls' Day

We give thanks for the glorious company of all the saints who now behold your face in eternal glory. Through their example, you have shown us the beauty of lives lived for you, in faith, love, and sacrifice. We humbly ask that their prayers and intercessions guide us on our own journey towards holiness. Lord, through the witness of these holy men and women, you have revealed the path of true discipleship. Inspire us to follow their footsteps, to bear our crosses faithfully, and to strive for righteousness in all we do. Grant us the grace to imitate their virtues – courage in the face of trials, humility in our daily tasks, and unwavering trust in your divine will. Amen.

Welcome back to our students, staff and wider school community. I hope you all enjoyed a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

On Monday 2 November 2026, parent/carers received a letter from Mr Darren Beardsley, Chief Executive Officer regarding the new name of our Trust, St Carlo Acutis Catholic Education Trust. Mr Beardsley's letter explains the exciting developments taking place across the Diocese, including the Trust's new identity and future plans to bring Catholic schools together through greater collaboration and shared expertise. It is an exciting time for our Trust and St Mary's, and I am confident these developments will further strengthen the high-quality education, pastoral care and opportunities we already provide for our school community.

New School Rebuild

We are delighted to attach to this week's letter the first set of photographs from our new school build, kindly provided by BAM. It is wonderful to see the progress being made on site and to watch our new school begin to take shape. BAM will be providing us with progress photographs at different stages throughout the build, and we look forward to keeping our students, families and wider school community updated as the development continues. This is an exciting milestone for the future of St Mary's and we are so pleased that we can share this journey with you all. We would like to thank BAM, the DfE and all those involved for their continued hard work and commitment to our new school building.

SEND Parent/Carer Information Session

Parent/carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are invited to attend a free drop-in information session on Wednesday 11 November 2026, from 10.30am to 12.30pm, at Horsforth Library Building, Town Street, Horsforth, LS18 5BL. The session provides an opportunity to access advice, support and information from a range of local services and organisations, including Leeds Local Offer, SENDIASS, and the Leeds Parent Carer Forum. Whether you are seeking guidance, looking to connect with support networks, or simply want to learn more about the services available, all parent/carers are welcome to attend. No booking is required and attendees are welcome to drop in at any time during the session.

The Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust is a charity and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales.
Company Number: 8399801. Registered Office: St. Mary's Menston, A Catholic Voluntary Academy, Bradford Road, Menston, LS29 6AE

Bambisanani Partnership
Recognition of the Partnership's 20th Anniversary continue to be celebrated. Please find attached this week an article published by the Diocese of Leeds.

Caritas Food Pantry Appeal
We are collecting donations for the Caritas Food Pantry Appeal and would be grateful for any contributions of non-perishable food items, including tinned goods, pasta, rice, cereal, tea and coffee. Your donations will help support local families experiencing hardship through the valuable work of Caritas. Thank you, as always, for your kindness and generosity.

Formation Opportunity: Guiding Hearts to Christ – The RCIA Journey
The Diocese of Leeds Vicariate for Education is hosting a formation and accompaniment day, Guiding Hearts to Christ: The RCIA Journey, on Saturday 7 November, 10.00am-4.00pm at Hinsley Hall. This free event is designed for parish volunteers, catechists, and anyone involved in supporting adults who are exploring the Catholic faith through the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) or OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) process. The day will offer practical guidance, shared experiences, and ideas for accompanying those discerning life in the Church. Participants will explore how effective RCIA programmes combine sound catechesis with prayer, discussion, personal witness, and hospitality, helping others encounter Christ and grow in faith. To reserve a free place, please book by 23 October via the Diocese of Leeds website or email formation@dioceseofleeds.org.uk.

Leeds Cathedral Remembrance Sunday Concert – Sunday 8th November 2026, 3:00pm
The Senior Boys, Senior Girls, Schools Scholars and Choral Scholars of Leeds Cathedral Choir give their annual Remembrance Sunday Concert, featuring Duruflé's exquisite Requiem - beautifully suited to the Cathedral's wonderful acoustic. The concert, which lasts around an hour, also includes music by Byrd (Quomodo Cantabimus), Victoria (Ave Maria a8) and Vierne (Kyrie from Messe Solennelle), with soloists from the choir and Cathedral Organist Benjamin Newlove, directed by Thomas Leech. Proceeds from the concert go towards supporting the costs of the seven Cathedral Choirs, which provide outstanding musical training to children (around 140 choristers in total) aged 6-18 as part of the Diocese of Leeds Schools Singing Programme, which works with nearly 7,000 children every week. Admission is free, with a suggested donation of £10.

St Marys Music Department Musical Instrument Amnesty
Do you have any musical instruments gathering dust? Are they in a reasonable condition? If yes, then the Music department would love to take them off your hands. Please contact Mr Scholey p.scholey@stmarysmenston.org, or drop off in visitor reception. Many thanks Mr Scholey, Subject Leader of Music

Christmas Concert – Thursday 3 December 2026
The Music department's Christmas Concert takes place on Thursday 3 December 2026 at 7:00pm. Tickets cost £5 (cash or card). We would be delighted to welcome you in our mixed programme of music. It promises to be a wonderful evening. In preparation for the concert, the Wednesday Band will recommence rehearsals next Wednesday (10 November 2026). This is an open invite for any player Grade 1 equivalent and above on any instrument to practice together from 2:45-3:30pm in H3 with Mr Scholey. New members are always welcome! A further reminder that our KS3 Choir, A Choired Taste, rehearses each Tuesday 2:45-3:30. Our Senior Vocal group, Vocalise rehearses on a Thursday afternoon and is open to all Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 students. For further details, please contact Mr Scholey p.scholey@stmarysmenston.org

I look forward to sharing highlights of school life and celebrating the many achievements, successes and good news stories from our students and wider school community throughout this half term.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

M. Hattersley.

Miss M Hattersley
Headteacher

St Mary's Menston Extra-Curricular Clubs Timetable Autumn 2026

	Activity or Cub	Year Group	Time/Location	Member of staff
Monday	Active Monday	All welcome	Lunch, Middle Yard	Mr Dempsey & Mrs Bird
	Football	Year 7-11 Girls	2.40-3.40pm, Grass	Mrs Thornton
Tuesday	Football	Year 7 Boys	2.40-3.40pm, Grass	Mr Thornton & Mr Shields
	Netball	Year 7 Girls	2.40-3.40pm, Yards/Sports Hall	Mrs Thornton
	Book Club	Year 7	Lunch Time, Library	Ms Hall
	School Drama Production	Years 8-13	2.40pm-4.30pm, H7	Miss Andrews
	A Choired Taste	Years 7-9	2.40-3.30pm, H3	Mr Scholey
Wednesday	Wellbeing Wednesday	All welcome	Lunchtimes, back of H22	Mrs Findlay & Mrs Harrison
	Volleyball	Sixth Form	2.40-3.40pm, Sports Hall	Mr Thornton
	Football	Years 8-11	2.40-3.40pm, Grass	Mr Pringle & Mr Clancy
	Running Club	All Welcome	2:40-3:40, Yards	Mrs Harrison
	Idea Award – Computing Enterprise Challenge	Years 7-9	Week B, 2.40-3.40, H17	Ms Nightingale
	School Drama Production	Years 8-13	2.40pm-4.30pm, H7	Miss Andrews
	Jazz Band	All years, Grade 2+	2.40-3.30pm, H3	Mr Scholey
Thursday	Netball	Years 8, 9, 10, 11	2.40-3.40pm, Top Yard	Miss Marsh
	Games Club (chess, cards, board games)	All years	2.40-3.40pm, H26	Mrs Miller
	School Drama Production	Years 8-13	2.40pm-4.30pm, H7	Miss Andrews
	Vocalise	Years 10-13	2.40-3.30pm, H3	Mr Scholey
Friday	Come and Play Drums, guitars, keyboards, tech	All years	2.40-3.30pm, H3	Mr Scholey
	Flourishing Friday Homework Club	All years	Lunchtime, Library	Mrs Nunn

- In addition, the Music practice rooms will be open for bookings by individuals and groups for practice/rehearsal every day from 2.40-4pm. Please see Mr Scholey to organise.
- Lessons are now open for booking on the following instruments - Guitar, Bass, Drums, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Violin, Viola, Piano. Lessons take place on a rotated timetable during the school day, payments are made directly to the private tutors. To apply, please email p.scholey@stmarysmenston.org.
- Bambisanani Award for years 7 & 8 – see Miss Wood to get involved.
- Duke of Edinburgh Award – see Mr. Dootson or Miss Mason to get involved.
- All students are welcome at extra-curricular sports clubs regardless of if they are in the selected teams or not.
- Students usually meet in the top changing rooms straight after school at 2:40pm unless directed otherwise by their club teacher.
- Students simply use their PE kit for the extra-curricular session unless told otherwise by their club teacher.
- After school sessions finish at 3:40pm unless stated otherwise, and students are responsible for making their own way home after this time.
- If a club is to be cancelled for any reason, teachers will let students know as far in advance as possible. If it has to be on the same day, then a pop-up message will appear to all students during their lessons. They can go to pupil services or M5 at break or lunch if they then need to contact home.

WELLBEING / SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

Contact Telephone Number for Parents
The school office will be open during normal school hours: 01943 883000.

If you are outside of school hours or it is a holiday and you have a concern you can ring the local authority social worker team directly.

- Leeds Children's Social Work Services Emergency Duty Team on 0113 535 0600. Further information can be found on the Leeds local authority website.
- Bradford Children's Social Work Services Emergency Duty Team on 01274 431 010. Further information can found on the Bradford local authority website.

NSPCC Helpline
You can contact the NSPCC Helpline by calling 0808 800 5000 or emailing help@NSPCC.org.uk
The NSPCC Helpline is currently available 10am–4pm Monday to Friday, however callers may experience voice distortion due to technical difficulties. You can email help@NSPCC.org.uk at any time for free. You don't have to say who you are. If the NSPCC haven't responded to you and your concerns for the safety of a child increase, please contact the police or local Children's Services directly (as noted above). Please be assured that the NSPCC action all contact received via their Helpline.

NHS ChatHealth (chathealth.nhs.uk)
ChatHealth enables young people to access support and advice regarding various emotional health and wellbeing concerns. To find out more information about ChatHealth and how to access the support please use the above link. ChatHealth also offer a Text Service 07520 619750 (8.30am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday) 11-19 year olds. Mental Health/General Health enquiries.

Young Minds Crisis Messenger - Provides free, 24/7 crisis support across the UK if you are experiencing a mental health crisis. If you need urgent help, texts are free to YM to 85258. All texts are answered by trained volunteers, with support from experienced clinical supervisors.

Wellbeing and Emotional Support
The following resources are available to support students:

- Time for Young People - Time For Young People is a free emotional wellbeing service for young people aged 11 to 18 in Leeds.
- **Kooth:** Young people aged 10-18 are fortunate to have the Kooth service available to them. Kooth is an **online** mental health community where you can access **free, safe and anonymous support**, commissioned by Leeds NHS Clinical Commissioning Group. Further information on Kooth can also be found on our website under the Personal Development section of each Year Group Shell.
- **MindMate:** Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health. Online (https://www.mindmate.org.uk/) and via telephone 0300 555 0324.
- **Teen Connect:** Emotional support over the phone, through text messages, or online to young people in Leeds aged 11-18. They are open from 3.30pm -2am Monday - Friday, and 6pm - 2am on a Saturday and Sunday.
  By phone: 0808 800 1212
  By text: 0771 566 1559
  Online: www.teenconnect.org.uk
  Instagram: @lslcs_teenconnect or visit https://www.instagram.com/lslcs_teenconnect/
  Facebook: @TeenConnectLeeds https://www.facebook.com/TeenConnectLeeds/

Teen Mental Health – A Guide for Parents
https://www.mytutor.co.uk/blog/parents/teen-mental-health-a-guide-for-parents/

Safer Leeds - Domestic violence and abuse (leeds.gov.uk)

Safeguarding Resources/Information
The following resources, highlighted by the Leeds Safeguarding Team, are also available for parents:

- NSPCC Keeping Children Safe Online provides a useful guide to social networks, apps and guide.
- National Online Safety have produced a series of top tips guides to support remote learning for Parents, Children and Teachers
- Thinkuknow is the education programme from NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline for different age groups and parents.
- Childnet has produced a Parent and Carer Toolkit which is a collection of three resources designed to help you talk to your child about their online life, manage boundaries around family internet use and point you in the direction of where to get further help and support.